

REMARKS

Claims 14-16, 20 and 22-32 are pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 14 and 20 to more clearly describe the invention claimed. Applicant has also added new claims 27-32.

The Examiner indicated that claims 22-25 are allowable. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his consideration during a brief telephone call of July 18, 2006. In the telephone call, claim 14 and Gersheneld (US Patent No. 5914701) were discussed. No agreement to allowable claim language was reached.

The Examiner continued to reject claims 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over Gersheneld (US Patent No. 5914701). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The present invention as claimed in claim 14 concerns a position input device as will be explained, by way of example only, with reference to FIG. 1 and related description in the specification. An oscillating signal generated by an oscillator 27 is received by an injection electrode 22 such that the injected signal travels through the operator and establishes an electric field about a hand of an operator (right hand in FIG. 1). See paragraph 40 of the present published application.

A pair of electrodes (first and second electrodes) 20.2 and 20.1 receive position signals from the right hand of the user. The position signals indicate the distance or position of the right hand relative to the first and second electrodes in a selected direction. In the example of electrodes 20.2 and 20.1 of FIG. 1, the selected direction is the Y-direction. The position signals are then fed to a

differential amplifier 38. The differential amplifier serves an important function because it cancels any common noise that may be present in the two electrodes (i.e., common mode rejection). The signal from the differential amplifier is then processed to generate a distance signal that indicates the position of the right hand in a particular direction.

The Examiner cited Gersheneld as anticipating claim 14. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 14 recites that two position sensing electrodes sense the position of the right hand and generate two separate position signals. The two separate position signals are then fed to the differential amplifier so that any noise common to both position signals is cancelled.

By contrast, Gersheneld only generates a single position signal.

The Examiner takes the position that the outer electrode 26 of FIG. 3 in Gersheneld receives the second position signal that indicates the distance of the second position sensing electrode from the user's hand (see page 2, paragraph 2 of Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees. As discussed at col. 4, lines 55-59 of Gersheneld and shown in FIG. 1, the outer electrode 26 is coupled to ground. That means that there is no current that flows through that electrode. Accordingly, the outer electrode cannot provide a "second position signal" that indicates the distance of the second position sensing electrode from the second body part as recited in claim 14.

For these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 14 is patentable over Gersheneld.

Dependent claims 15-16 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 14.

The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Gersheneld. For the same

reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 14, Applicant submits that claim 20 is also patentable. Dependent claim 26 is also patentable by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 20.

Applicant has added new claims 27-32. Claim 27 is drawn along the lines of claim 14. Accordingly, for the similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 14, Applicant submits that claim 27 is also patentable. Dependent claims 28-32 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 27.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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